GEG S5 04 (M)
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ENGLISH DRAMA

SEMESTER V

ENGLISH

BLOCK -2

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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BLOCK INTRODUCTION

In the second block of the course on 'English Drama', the eighth and ninth units takes up the Norwegian dramatist Henrik Ibsen's seminal play titled *A Doll's House.* In the play, the leading protagonist, yet again a woman character who follows her own path instead of following the one that is defined by social conventions, thereby setting an example for others like her. The tenth and eleventh units takes up a play by the Irish playwright John Millington Synge's titled *The Playboy of the Western World* which is based on the western part of Ireland in the context of life among the Irish peasantry and the protagonist's search for identity. Synge had developed the thematic content and characters of the play through a recollection of the past experiences of his life spent in the Aran Islands.

The twelfth and thirteenth units takes up the British playwright Harold Pinter's *The Birthday Party* which through its confusing and absurd situations brings out endearing characters in the play. Most of the plays by Pinter had widely explored the playfulness of language and engaged with the mundane monotony of everyday realities. The fourteenth and fifteenth units takes up Luigi Pirandello's play titled *Six Characters in Search of an Author* which takes up a similar concern that surrounds the confusion on reality versus representation.

After going through the units of the second black, you will be able to discuss the prescribed drama and plays in a detailed manner. While going through a unit, you may also notice some text boxes, which have been included to help you know some of the difficult terms and concepts. You will also read about some relevant ideas and concepts in "LET US KNOW" along with the text. We have kept "CHECK YOUR PROGRESS" questions in each unit which have been designed to self-check your progress of study. It is important to note that the Self Learning Material (SLM) is not an end in itself and the learners are strongly advised to consult the references and other resources recommended for reading.